

November 26, 2021

Dear Friends,

Where have we seen the reign of Christ since we last met?

Everything changes when our lives are ordered around Jesus Christ. The church is guided by a calendar that centres on the birth, life, death, resurrection, and reign of Christ. Last Sunday was the final Sunday of the church year, called Christ the King or Reign of Christ Sunday. In yesterday's prayer time, I read this quote (from Stephen V. Doughty and Marjorie J. Thompson, *The Way of Discernment*):

We need to open our eyes and ears. In a culture so fixed on the superficial, the negative, the sensational, and the tawdry, we need to be a people who look for the movements of God's grace and stand ready to follow where those movements lead. The question is so straightforward: *'Where have we seen the reign of Christ since we last met?'*

Today at work, in your home, going about life in society, what signs have you seen that God is up to his good work of making all things new? May we have eyes to see and hearts to celebrate and lives that participate in the good things of God.

Sundays Worship Gatherings: In-Person Registration (9 a.m. or 11 a.m.) or Livestream Link (11 a.m.)

Happy New Year! This coming Sunday is the first Sunday of Advent. The word Advent means "coming" or "arrival." It is the season up to Christmas when we anticipate the celebration of the Incarnation of Christ, aka Christmas. "The Word became flesh and moved into the neighbourhood," as the Message puts it in John 1:14. This is also a season when we celebrate Christ's arrival to us every day by way of the Holy Spirit. And we anticipate Christ's ultimate reign in the end when the mercy and justice of God will fully be: "Look! God's dwelling place is now among the people, and he will dwell with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. 'He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death' or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away." (Rev. 21:3-5)

Each Sunday through Advent, we will light one new candle. Finally, we will light the Christ candle on Christmas Eve and greet one another with "Merry Christmas!" A testimony by a member of the congregation will accompany each candle-lighting. This week Pastor Abe will light the candle of Hope and tell his story on that theme, and Pastor Nate will give the sermon.

[Register here for Sunday's In-person service \(9 a.m. or 11 a.m.\)](#)

Complete building entrance screening [here](#) before your arrival.

Here are our [current guidelines](#) for gathering in-person.

Or [Join the 11 a.m. Livestreamed service online here](#).

When you click on the link above this will launch the SWC Livestream homepage.

From there you may need to click the "Videos" tab to access this Sunday's Livestream.

For this week's scripture readings and other announcements, go to [Sunday's bulletin](#).

Sunday School

We have the capacity to offer Sunday School this week in both services for all ages between preschool and grade six. If you have children attending Sunday School, please register them twice (for the service upstairs and then for Sunday School downstairs).

Baptism Picture

Last Sunday a member of our youth group was baptized. Here is a [picture](#). It was wonderful to hear from her and celebrate her faith in Christ.

Prayer Gatherings

The prayer team will reconvene in the new year facilitated by Pastor Abe. Meanwhile we pray as individuals, in our small groups, as we gather on Sundays and in our worship and prayer gatherings the third Tuesday of the month. You may want to use an [Advent devotional](#) to guide your daily readings and prayers this season.

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him.

With love and prayers,

Pastor Kerry Kronberg (with the whole team)